

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 SS-15

L-03 (ISO) W

-----121884 061053Z /17

O R 060807Z SEP 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3212

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: IRC HOSTEL ARRANGEMENT

REF: A. STATE 223906, B. HONG KONG 12303

1. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT SUGGESTION OF IRC OPERATE HOSTEL IS FEASIBLE, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE TIME ESTIMATE WITHOUT FIRST ACTUALLY EXPLORING RENTAL MARKET. IF HARRY ALLEN WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION, CONGEN COULD TENTATIVELY EXPLORE MARKET IN HIS ABSENCE IN COORDINATION WITH IRC HONG KONG OFFICE.

2. HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID), WHICH SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF EMPTY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN NEW TERRITORIES DURING LOWMAN VISIT, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH SUCH A SITE. WHEN WE DISCUSSED REFTEL (A) WITH HKID, WE WERE TOLD THAT HONG KONG GOVT WOULD ASSIST IN LOOKING FOR POSSIBILITIES, BUT IT WOULD TAKE TIME.

3. WE ALSO DISCUSSED IRC HOSTEL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMPATKUMAR
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AND CARPENTER. FORMER TOLD US THAT OF THE FOUR VOLAGS IN HONG KONG, ONLY HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE (WCC) HAS SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN ASSISTING UNHCR WITH SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT UNHCR WOULD BE PLEASED TO WORK WITH IRC IF HOSTEL FACILITIES COULD BE DEVELOPED.

4. WOULD DEPT CONSIDER DEVELOPING IRC HOSTEL FACILITIES IN MACAU IF FINDING SPACE IN HONG KONG PROVES TOO TIME CONSUMING? DURING MEETING AT CONGEN ON SEPT. 5, SAMPATKUMAR EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT MACAU COULD BE USED TO ANY LARGE EXTENT AS SPILL-OVER SITE FOR HONG KONG, AT LEAST IN THE NEAR TERM (SEEMREF B), AND WE ARE NO LONGER HOPEFUL THAT UNHCR WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO SHIFT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES TO MACAU DESPITE PRODDING IN GENEVA. RENTAL OF FACILITY IN MACAU WITH SOME DEVELOPMENT COSTS MIGHT ENCOURAGE MACAU GOVT TO PROD UNHCR AT THIS END. WE REALIZE THIS WOULD NOT HELP DIRECTLY TO SOLVE HIGH COSTS IN HONG KONG, BUT IF DEPT AGREES, IT COULD BE FALLBACK POSSIBILITY.

5. REQUEST DEPT COMMENTS, INCLUDING WHETHER CONGEN SHOULD START EXPLORATION DESPITE ABSENCE HARRY ALLEN. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: REFUGEES, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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